

## **REMARKS**

### **Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-6, 8 and 11-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-6 and 8 are amended, claim 10 is canceled, and claims 11-14 are newly presented. Claims 7 and 9 previously were canceled.

### **Summary of the Official Action**

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0030728 (Kawashima).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

### **Claim Amendments**

The rejection of the claims over the cited art respectfully is traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and claims 1-6 and 8 have been amended more clearly to recite various novel features of the claimed invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments; claims 11-14 have been added to provide Applicants with additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. Support for the amendments may be found in the original application, for example, in Fig. 3 and the corresponding text at paragraphs [0023] – [0035]. No new matter has been added.

### **Claimed Invention**

The present invention relates to a novel touch panel holder frame for an electronic device including a touch panel and a display device body having a display screen, and to such an electronic device including such a touch panel holder frame. In one aspect, as recited in claim 1 (and referring to Fig. 3 by way of example only), the claimed invention relates to a touch panel holder frame (30) for an electronic device that includes a touch panel (20) and a

display device body (10) having a display screen (12). The touch panel holder frame (30) comprises a first positioning enclosure (32) that engages the display device body (30) along a portion of a plate thickness of the display device body (30) to surround a whole or a part of an outer periphery of the display screen (12), a second positioning enclosure (34) that engages the touch panel (20) along a portion of a plate thickness of the touch panel (20) to surround a whole or a part of an outer periphery of the touch panel (20), where the second positioning enclosure (34) has an inner surface; a spacer section (38) connects the first positioning enclosure (32) and the second positioning enclosure (34) and separates the display screen (12) from the touch panel (20) by a clearance distance, and a plurality of holding pawl sections (36) provided on the inner surface of the second positioning enclosure (34) at positions remote from the spacer section (38) engage the outer periphery of the touch panel (20) and retain the touch panel (20) within the second positioning enclosure (34) of the touch panel holder frame.

In another aspect, as recited in independent claim 6, the claimed invention relates to a display device comprising such a display device body, a touch panel and a touch panel holder frame contained in a panel casing. For example, the specification discloses various exemplary aspects of a display device including a holder frame (30) for holding a display device body (10) and a touch panel (20) within a panel casing (40) having an opening (42).

#### **Prior Art Distinguished**

Applicants submit that the prior art fails to anticipate the claimed invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

In particular, Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the claimed combination of features including a plurality of holding pawl sections, provided on an inner surface of a second positioning enclosure, that engage the outer periphery of the

touch panel and retain the touch panel within the second positioning enclosure of the touch panel holder frame, as disclosed in the present application and recited in independent claims 1 and 6.

**The Kawashima '728 publication** relates to a touch panel assembly, and discloses an electronic device including a touch panel and a display device body having a display screen. However, Applicants submit that the Kawashima '728 publication fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the claimed invention. Rather, the Kawashima '728 publication describes a touch panel assembly 2 comprising a touch panel 10 having no reinforcement member.

In this regard, Applicants acknowledge that the Kawashima '728 publication discloses a housing frame 50 disposed in a housing 28, where the housing frame 50 has a T-shape cross-section at a periphery thereof, and where the T-shape housing frame includes a first positioning enclosure (lower portion of cross-bar of T-shape cross-section), a second positioning enclosure (upper portion of cross-bar of T-shape cross section), and a spacer section (stem of T-shape cross-section). However, in the Kawashima '728 publication the second/upper positioning enclosure supports a front light unit 20 and light conducting plate 22; nowhere does the Kawashima '728 publication disclose or suggest that this structure engages the touch panel 10. In fact, the Kawashima '728 publication teaches to provide a reinforcing frame 61 between the housing frame 50 and the touch panel 10. Further, the Kawashima '728 publication teaches that the spacer section (stem of the T-shape cross-section) together with a cushion 43 provide a spacing between the display device 30 and the light conductor plate 22, not between the display device 30 and the touch panel 10. Finally, nowhere does the Kawashima '728 publication disclose or suggest the feature of a plurality of holding pawl sections formed on an inner surface of a second positioning enclosure for retaining any structure within the second positioning enclosure; more specifically, nowhere does the Kawashima '728 publication disclose or suggest the feature of a plurality of holding

pawl sections formed on an inner surface of a second positioning enclosure for retaining the touch panel within the second positioning enclosure, as disclosed in the present application and recited in independent claims 1 and 6.

For the above reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 6 are allowable over the cited art.

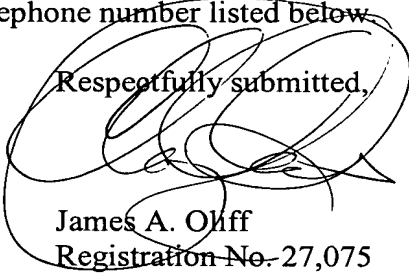
Claims 2-5, 8 and 11-14 depend from claims 1 and 6, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

**Conclusion**

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below

Respectfully submitted,

  
James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Christopher Philip Wrist  
Registration No. 32,078

JAO:CPW/amw

Date: November 7, 2005

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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